Delhi High Court has directed the Government to continue keeping a strict vigil, keep informing the general public of the protective measures, if required. Details are as below:

i. A public interest petition was field in Delhi High Court in March, 2001 seeking directions for Government to formulate guidelines for cyber cafes, institutions and other places where internet access is open to general public and also to launch public awareness programme to highlight the risk of information high way access, particularly to kids and teens.

ii. Government of India filed an affidavit informing the Court of the steps taken *e.g.* (i) promulgation of IT Act, 2000, covering provisions on publishing and transmission of material in electronic form, (ii) license agreement of ISPs stipulating ban on carrying obscene and unauthorized material, (iii) existing provisions of Section 293 of IPC discouraging sale/hiring/distribution of obscene material below age of twenty years; and (iv) creating a website by National Informatic Centre (NIC) for awareness and parental guidelines.

iii. The case was disposed of in February, 2002.

Out of Order VPTs in Rajasthan

4545. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones remained out of order in the rural areas of Rajasthan;

(b) the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, 2131 Village Public Telephones were out of order in rural Rajasthan as on 31.3.2002.

(b) The reasons are as follows:

(i) Spare parts for repair of MARR are not available.

(ii) Erratic power supply in villages.

(iii) Battery being misused for other purposes by the VPT custodians.

(iv) Non-motorable roads leading to delay in restoration.

(v) Theft of wire on long physical lines

(c) All out efforts are made to make them functional at the earliest. To further improve the services there is a plan to replace existing MARR VPTs by WLL and laying of underground cable in villages and opening of new exchange in phased manner.

Review of Indian Telegraph Act

4546. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain sections of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and 1898 adequate powers to Government to intercept messages and postal articles of any person;

(b) whether these provisions have invited lot of criticism as it impinge upon the rights of the citizens guaranteed under the constitution; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the Indian Telegraph Act so as to remove such provision which impinge upon the citizen rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, Indian Telegraph Act, *inter-alia*, provides that on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorized in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that it